

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORTTOPIC 1. Troops of the Interior Guard in Kuncice
2. Military Installations in Prague and Ostrava

25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

3 December 1954

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

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1. Prior to late March 1954, the former castle in Kuncice (P 50/O 58) quartered a unit of the Interior Guard (Vnitřní Stráž) which had about 180 men. In late November or early December 1953, 140 to 160 men and rations for two months were unloaded at the castle. According to soldiers of the unit, a battalion (Prapor) was stationed at the castle. A major whose headquarters was in Ostrava (P 50/O 59) frequently came to the castle. This officer was also frequently observed at the Vitkovice steel works where he attended the meetings of the board of managers. The abovementioned unit of the Interior Guard in Kuncice which was allegedly a battalion was subordinate to district administration for public safety (Krajská Správa Verejné Bezpečnosti).
2. Members of the Interior Guard were observed guarding industrial plants. Soldiers of the Interior Guard occupied wooden towers in the area of the Vitkovice steel works. In September 1953, sentries of the Interior Guard were observed at the Ministry of the Interior in Prague. From a train, soldiers of the same organization were observed guarding a building site near Praha Braník (O 51/L 78) where a new bridge was under construction. During a conversation in December 1953, a member of the StB said that, after special training, the young officers of the Kuncice VS unit, dressed in civilian clothes, had to trace the inmates of the Kuncice Internment Camp. By means of this surveillance service the young junior lieutenants were able to obtain special confidential allowances.
3. Officers and enlisted men of the Interior Guard wore the khaki uniform of the army. The garrison caps of the enlisted men had a national emblem which represented a lion which was surrounded by a toothed wheel and bore a breast plate with a small red-star emblem. The toothed wheel was topped by a sword which pointed upward. Officers wore the same emblem. Another insignia observed was a large red five-pointed star emblem whose middle had the Czech coat of arms (lion). The violet collar patches of the enlisted men carried a toothed wheel with blunt teeth and three spokes which formed the background of a short sword which pointed upward. Some of the officers observed in Kuncice wore the same insignia on their collar patches which was worn by the enlisted men. Others wore the battle-club insignia usually worn by officers of the Czech Armed Forces. Enlisted men wore either khaki or violet-bordered khaki epaulets. NCOs also wore rank insignia of violet service color. Occasionally, however, golden and white insignia of rank were also observed. The troops wore blouses of two different models. One was a long uniform blouse with four sewed-on pockets and a shorter slipover tunic with two sewed-on pockets and buttons covered by a ledge. The lower edge of this tunic was formed by a sewed-on belt which touched the hips and was fastened with two buttons on the left side. The troops wore overcoats and also padded.

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quilted jackets.

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4. The troops in Kuncice had three Skoda Diesel and three Aero trucks. No heavy weapons were observed in Kuncice. Only light AA weapons which were mounted on a Skoda Tudor jeep were observed there.

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5. According to a fellow internee, one of whose relatives was a VS soldier, officers of the Interior Guard were trained at a school in Prague Ruzyně. Promotions were made known annually on the occasion of the anniversary of the communist seizure of power. Pay rates and chances of promotion were allegedly better than in the Armed Forces. Whoever wished to advance in his career had to hold the Fucik badge, which was awarded for good political knowledge, and the Toz badge, which was awarded for efficiency in paramilitary physical training. The recruits were generally reliable members of the Communist Youth. The men had to serve a 2-year term.
6. In about July 1953, a Czech construction worker said that his 17-year-old son, who was a member of the Svazarm, an association furthering cooperation with the Armed Forces, attended a radio operators' advanced training course for radio squad leaders of the Svazarm at Prague Motol Castle. In September 1953, a new signboard inscribed Military Justice Administration (Vojenska justicka sprava) was observed at the Jirihova Posadba Barracks on the east side of nam. Republiky in Prague. The sentries wore uniform with a red arm band. Soldiers unloaded records which were tied up in bundles. Bed and furniture was observed through the windows of the installation.
7. Prior to March 1954, the office of the Military District Headquarters (Krajske Vojenske Velitelstvi) was located in a long, modern building on the south side of Ruske tr., between u Stadionu and u Ohrady, in Ostrava. According to an inscription, the station komendatura (Posadbove Velitelstvi) was housed in the same building. A streetcar stop for lines including number 10, which led to Vinohrady was located in front of this building, at which cars were frequently observed.

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1. Comment. Previous reports indicate that a VS political officers' school is located in Kuncice Castle.

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According to an inscription, the station komendatura (Posadkove Velitelstvi)
was housed in the same building. A streetcar stop for lines including number 2
which led to Vitkovice was located in front of this building at which officers
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